

Mar. 27 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

I want you to know, I trust the people of this country. I not only trust them to spend their own money more wisely than the Federal Government will spend it, but I trust the people to provide a compassionate tomorrow for our fellow citizens.

You see, I understand the great strength of this country is not in the halls of Government, faraway capitals; it's in the neighborhoods of Kalamazoo, Michigan. It's in the churches and synagogues and mosques that dot this landscape.

We'll debate budgets and line items and all that, but one thing that can't be debated is, the true strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of citizens who hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like they would like to be loved themselves. The true strength of the country takes place in acts of kindness that no Government official probably has ever heard of, where somebody walks across the street and says, "What can I do," to somebody who needs a hand, or that Boy Scout or Girl Scout leader who dedicates time to teach a child values, or the after-school program run by a Girls' Club or Boys' Club, where somebody says, "Gosh, I'd like to help somebody understand somebody loves them." Now, that's what America is all about.

And our Federal Government not only must trust people with their own money; we must empower the great compassion of America by trusting Americans all across the country. It begins by working on changing the culture of the Nation's Capital, and I think we're making good progress. There's

a culture of responsibility beginning to become a part of our Nation's Capital that each of us understand if we're given the awesome tasks that we're responsible for upholding the offices we hold. There's a culture of respect beginning to take hold in the Nation's Capital, where good people can disagree but on respectful terms. The American people are sick and tired of finger pointing and name calling to try to tear somebody down to build themselves up. It's time to have good public policy become the focal point of this Nation's Capital.

And I'm convinced that by changing the tone of Washington and by setting lofty goals and remembering where the great strength of this country comes from, that this land of ours can achieve anything we set our mind to; that not only will this economy come roaring out of its doldrums, but we'll be a land where the fabric is made up of groups and loving centers that really say to somebody, "I want you to succeed"; that the American hope belongs to everybody who lives in this great land.

I love being your President. I'm honored you're here. Thank you for giving me a chance to state my case, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. In his remarks, he referred to Michigan Secretary of State Candice S. Miller; Elson Floyd, president, Western Michigan University; Kevin McCarthy, first vice chair, Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce; and State Senator Mike Ross.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA *March 27, 2001*

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c),

and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-

month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of An-

gola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
March 27, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Corporation for
Public Broadcasting
March 27, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-356), I transmit herewith the re-

port of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting covering calendar year 2000.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
March 27, 2001.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange
With Reporters
March 28, 2001

Federal Budget

The President. I want to thank the leadership of the House and the Senate for coming up. Today's a big day. The House is going to take up a budget, a budget that is a commonsense budget, one that meets priorities, one that grows discretionary spending by 4 percent, a budget that protects Social Security, a budget that funds Medicare. It's also a budget that recognizes that this Nation needs a tax relief package to stimulate our economy.

I want to thank you for coming, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you, Chairman Thomas, for working with Members of the House to get the package moving quickly. Later on this week you'll be taking up, as I understand, the child credit and the marriage penalty and, later on, the death tax. And I appreciate your leadership.

I've been very encouraged to see that Members on both sides of the aisle have been talking about the need not only to have immediate stimulus to the economy but certainty in our country, by having rates reduced. But reducing just one rate is not enough. In order to encourage the growth of our small businesses and enhance the entrepreneurial fervor of America, we need to cut all rates, so that there's certainty in our economy when people plan. And I'm confident we can get this done. It's in the best interests of our country that we do so.

I want to thank the Senators who are here. We've got a big vote coming up next week on the budget. The chairman is here of the Budget Committee. He's a man who understands the importance of tax relief to stimulate growth. I appreciate you, Mr.